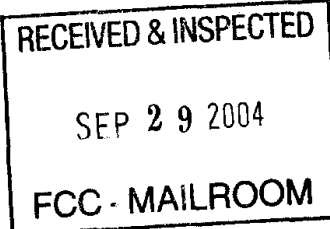


September 16, 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 - 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 02-6
Form 471 Application Number 432180
Laporte School District 306' Billed Entity Number 133952
Funding Request Numbers 1201476, 1201742



Dear Decision Maker:

This is an appeal to consider our Form 471 application, Fund Year 2004. This application was originally completed online and approved weeks prior to the close of the window. While reviewing the finished document on USAC's website, I discovered that an error had been made giving Laporte School more funds than it was entitled. After failing many attempts to correct the document online I called USAC. I was informed that the document could not be electronically changed. There were exactly two options: delete the finished 471 and make a new one, or let the inaccurate document stand and make corrections at a later date. I chose to make a new form because I felt it was the correct and honest thing to do, and there was time to accomplish the task and mail the necessary document before the deadline. I did both, and was completely surprised when I found out that it hadn't been postmarked until the next day.

I believe the USAC Administrator is in error in his appellate decision on the following grounds:

- The USAC Administrator listed the following reason for his denial of our appeal: *"We find that you did not file or postmark the FCC Form 471 application number 432180 certification page before the close of the Fund Year-2004 filing window."* On the contrary, **form 471 was filed** before the February 4th, 2004 postmark deadline. It was filed online, but after making a mistake, we had no intention whatsoever of letting a false claim be filed. **The online software gave no recourse for correcting a mistake.**
- With the choice given to us by the USAC representative, we swiftly and *in good faith* corrected the mistake using paper medium. Had we a post office in our small town which remained open until midnight, I doubt this dispute would have ever been brought to light.

I do not believe that honesty and good faith should go unrewarded, especially when there was no way to correct the form online. Our school never had any intentions of filing a false claim by accident when we were aware of the mistake, but we had *every* intention of

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filing form 471 before the deadline. We were denied our last appeal on a technicality, when every effort was made by the district to comply with the rules and procedures of the FCC.

Please contact us regarding your decision at:

Rolfe Ericson
315 Main St. W.
Laporte, MN 56461
Ph: (218) 224-2288 Fax: (218) 224-2905

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please accept our appeal.

Sincerely,



Rolfe Ericson
Technology Coordinator, Laporte School District #306